

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05391 102145Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02

SY-05 DHA-02 /065 W

----- 085798

R 102120Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3378

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5391

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, JM

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PROCESSIONS NOW BANNED THROUGHOUT JAMAICA

REF: KINGSTON 5362

1. THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITY" UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE), I.E., THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF (COS) OF THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE, YESTERDAY (DEC 9) EXTENDED THE PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL PROCESSIONS THROUGHOUT JAMAICA. UNDER THE BAN IMPOSED THE PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL), POLITICAL PROCESSIONS HAD BEEN BANNED ONLY IN THE KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW CORPORATE AREA. THE NEW ISLANDWIDE ORDER PROHIBITS ALL PROCESSIONS, MARCHES, AND MOTOCADES AND LIMITS TO FIVE PERSONS THOSE WHO MAY ACCOMPANY CANDIDATES DURING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CANVASSING.

2. COMMENT: THE EXTENSION OF THE BAN THROUGHOUT JAMAICA CLEARLY REFLECTS OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE WHICH NOW CHARACTERIZES THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN. FOR EXAMPLE, THE "DAILY GLEANER" TODAY REPORTS THAT THREE PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND TWO INJURED IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN CLARENDON PARISH ON DEC 8 AND 9.

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PAGE 02 KINGST 05391 102145Z

3. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BAN IS MADE SOLELY IN

THE NAME OF THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITY", AND THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS IN THE PAST STATED THAT IT LEAVES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOE TO THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITY" BUT HAS BEEN QUITE EVIDENT, STANDING AT THE SHOULDER OF THE COMMISSIONER AND THE COS. IN THIS INSTANCE, WE ASSUME THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE, EVEN IMPLICIT, TO THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE RULING PNP TO AVOID ANY CHARGE THAT IT IS HAMPERING THE JLP IN THE LATTER'S CAMPAIGNING. WE ADOPT THIS VIEW SINCE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITY" IS LOOKING INDEPENDENTLY.
GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLICE POWERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINGST05391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760457-0941
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761255/aaaabvcg.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KINGSTON 5362
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <07 Jan 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL PROCESSIONS NOW BANNED THROUGHOUT JAMAICA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006